

Remarks

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 15, 2005. Claims 14 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-13 and 15-27 remain pending in this case. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original claims in this application and in other applications.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 14 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 14 and 28 have been canceled, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment overcomes this rejection and adds no new matter.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5, 7, 10, 11, 15-19, 21, 24, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over 0-7695-1632-7/02 2002 IEEE Publication “Use of Metadata Registries for Searching for Statistical Data by Chris Nelson (“*Nelson*”) in view of Bloch et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0049766) (“*Bloch*”). Applicants traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites in a computerized environment, a method of normalizing document data to improve the results of search requests, the method comprising, *inter alia*, “identifying at least one of the one or more document segments as an alias that correlates with a document datum found in an alias directory service” and “associating the received document with the document alias so that, upon request for the document datum through a search engine, the received document is returned to the requester by association of the document datum with the alias.”

Claim 10 recites in a computerized environment, a method of normalizing document data to improve the results of search requests, the method comprising, *inter alia*, “normalizing document metadata used as a reference by a search engine by maintaining one or more

relationships between a search term and an alternate search term, a search term property or alternative search term property.”

Claim 15 recites a computer program product having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of normalizing document data to improve the results of search requests, the method comprising the acts of, *inter alia*, “identifying at least one of the one or more document segments as an alias for a document datum found in an alias directory service” and “associating the received document with the document alias so that, upon request for the document datum through a search engine, the received document is returned to the requester by association of the document datum with the alias.”

Claim 24 recites a computer program product having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of normalizing document data to improve the results of search requests, the method comprising, *inter alia*, “normalizing document metadata used as a reference by a search engine by maintaining one or more relationships between a search term and an alternate search term, a search term property or alternative search term property.”

Nelson discloses linking a number of metadata repositories using a web services paradigm and investigating whether the OASIS/ebXML registry services specification can be used to discover statistical data and to retrieve data from an appropriate repository. (*See Nelson* page 233 under COSMOS.) *Nelson* also discloses that a RegistryObject can be associated to any other RegistryObject via an Association class. (*See Nelson* page 234 under Part of Registration Information Model [6].)

Bloch discloses a system for associating metadata attributes with program elements. During operation, the system receives source code containing syntactic elements that specify metadata attributes for program elements, wherein the metadata attributes do not affect program

execution. (*See Bloch* paragraph [0009].) The system then parses the source code to obtain the metadata attributes. Next, the system associates the metadata attributes with corresponding program elements and determines values associated with the metadata attributes. (*See Bloch* paragraph [0009].) Finally, the system incorporates the metadata attributes, including identifiers for the associated values and the associated program elements, into object code for the program, thereby allowing the metadata attributes to be accessed from the object code. (*See Bloch* paragraph [0009].)

The combination of *Nelson* and *Bloch* fails to teach or suggest all the recitations of claims 1, 10, 15 and 24. Specifically, the combination fails to teach or suggest identifying at least one of the one or more document segments as an alias that correlates with a document datum found in an alias directory service, as recited in claims 1 and 15. The Office Action acknowledges that *Bloch* fails to disclose such a recitation and relies upon *Nelson*. However, *Nelson* merely discloses a searching application that obtains data regardless of which repository the data resides, and in no way teaches or suggest the use a document datum, much less identifying at least one of the one or more document segments as an alias that correlates with a document datum. (*See Nelson* page 233 under COSMOS.) The combination also fails to teach or suggest associating the received document with the document alias so that, upon request for the document datum through a search engine, the received document is returned to the requester by association of the document datum with the alias because neither *Nelson* nor *Bloch* disclose in any way the use of aliases.

The combination of *Nelson* and *Bloch* also fails to teach or suggest a step for normalizing document metadata used as a reference by a search engine by maintaining one or more relationships between a search term and an alternate search term, a search term property or

alternative search term property, as recited in claims 10 and 24. *Nelson* merely uses two models to associate a RegistryObject with another RegistryObject and does not maintain a relationship between a search term and an alternate search term, much less a search term property or alternative search term property. *Nelson* employs classifying a dataset in terms of one or more ClassificationNodes in one or more ClassificationSchemes or register metadata that describes the data and addresses information classification, not maintain a relationship between a search term and an alternate search term. (See *Nelson* pages 233-234 under A Simple Model to Support the Search for Statistical Data.) *Bloch* also fails to teach or suggest normalizing document metadata used as a reference by a search engine by maintaining one or more relationships between a search term and an alternate search term, a search term property or alternative search term property. *Bloch* merely associates metadata attributes with program elements and in no way mentions normalization, much less normalizing document metadata used as a reference by a search engine.

Thus, *Nelson* and *Bloch* whether considered alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest all the recitations of claims 1, 10, 15 and 24. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 10, 15 and 24 patentably distinguish the present invention over the cited prior art, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection of Claims 1, 10, 15 and 24. Dependent Claims 2-9 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding Independent Claim 1, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 11-13 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding Independent Claim 10, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 10. Dependent Claims 16-23 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding Independent Claim 15, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 15. Dependent Claims 25-27 are also allowable at least for

the reasons described above regarding Independent Claim 24, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 24. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 2-9, 11-13, 16-23 and 25-27.

Claims 6, 8, 9, 12-14, 20, 22, 23 and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nelson* in view of *Bloch* and further in view of WebDB 2000 publication "Using Metadata to Enhance Web Information Gathering by Jeonghee Yi, Nee Sundaresan and Anita Huang ("*Yi*"). Applicants traverse the rejection.

As mentioned above, the combination of *Nelson* and *Bloch* fails to teach or suggest claims 6, 8, 9, 12-14, 20, 22, 23 and 26-28. In addition, *Yi* fails to remedy the deficiencies in the combination of *Nelson* and *Bloch*.

Yi discloses the use of a link structure in hypertext documents to identify high quality pages. *Yi* is directed to web crawling strategies. (See *Yi* page 39-41 Web Gatherer Environment.) *Yi* fails to teach or suggest identifying at least one of the one or more document segments as an alias that correlates with a document datum found in an alias directory service and associating the received document with the document alias so that, upon request for the document datum through a search engine, the received document is returned to the requester by association of the document datum with the alias, as recited in independent claims 1 and 15. *Yi* in no way teaches or suggest the use a document datum, much less identifying at least one of the one or more document segments as an alias that correlates with a document datum. *Yi* also fails to teach or suggest a step for normalizing document metadata used as a reference by a search engine by maintaining one or more relationships between a search term and an alternate search term, a search term property or alternative search term property, as recited in independent claims 10 and 24. *Yi* is directed to summarizing data that may have different formats and in no way

mentions normalization, much less normalizing document metadata used as a reference by a search engine. (See *Yi* page 40 Web Gatherer Environment.)

Thus, *Nelson*, *Bloch* and *Yi* whether considered alone or in combination fail to teach or suggest all the recitations of claims 1, 10, 15 and 24. Accordingly, dependent claims 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 20, 22, 23 and 26-27 patentably distinguish the present invention over the cited prior art, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection of Claims 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 20, 22, 23 and 26-27.

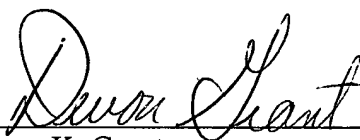
Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned please contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at 404.954.5040.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 15, 2006



Devon K. Grant
Reg. No. 57,036

MERCHANT & GOULD, LLC
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
404.954.5100

